

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 03032 040812Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 /018 W
-----040817Z 017915 /13
R 040757Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5879

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 3032

STADIS////////

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EPAP, JA
SUBJ: SWEET CHERRIES.

1. PER YOUR REQUEST THE FOLLOWING IS STATUS AND SUGGESTED COURSE
OF ACTION ON SWEET CHERRIES FROM U.S. NORTHWEST:

2. THE CHERRY/CODLING MOTH ISSUE IS A PLANT UUARANTINE MATTER THAT
FALLS UNDER MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE-PLANT QUARANTINE (MAF/PQ) USDA/
FAS REGARDING RESEARCH REQUIREMENTS. RECENT EVIDENCE OF THEIR GOOD
FAITH AND TECHNICAL PROFESSIONALISM WERE THE RESTLUTION OF THE
FLORIDA CARIBFLY PROBLEM AND RESULTING FUMIGATION PROCEDURES. ALSO
THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF THE CAL. MEDFLY OUTBREAK THAT WAS NOT USED
TO DISRUPT U.S. LEMON GRAPEFRUIT AND ORANGE SHIPMENTS. THE CARRY-
ON PROCEDURES APPROVED FOR ORANGES AND THE INSPECTOR PROVIDED IN
HAWAII FOR PAPAYAS ARE OTHERS.

3. THE TWO KEY MATTERS NOW UNDER ACTIVE NEGOTIATION WITH MAF/PQ
ARE CHERRIES-CODLING MOTH AND TIMOTHY HAY-HESSIAN FLY. ALL NECE-
SSARY RESEARCH DATA NEEDED FOR A DECISION RE THE CHERRY PROBLEM IS
NOW IN MAF/PQ'S HANDS (WHICH THEY AND FORN MINISTRY INFORMALLY
ACKNOWLEDGE), SO IT IS NO LONGER A "TECHNICAL" PROBLEM. THE POLICY
LEVEL DOES FEEL IT HAS GROWER PROBLEMS; HENCE THE DIFFICULTY IN
REACHING A DECISION TO PERMIT U.S. IMPORTS. DEVELOPMENT OF RESE-
ARCH DATA RE THE TIMOTHY HAY-HESSIAN FLY ITEM HAS JUST BEGUN.

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3. EMBASSY, STRONGLY RECOMMENDS PRESSURE RE CHERRIES FROM THE U.S.
AT ALL LEVELS UP TO BUT NOT REPEAT NOT INCLUDING THAT OF PRESIDENT/
PRIME MINISTER, KEEPING IN MIND PAST COOPERATION AND REAL PROGRESS
PLUS THE RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF CHERRY TRADE POTENTIAL. PUSHING
THIS ISSUE TO TOP LEVEL WOULD AUTOMATICALLY CONVERT WHAT SHOULD BE
A TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEM TO A POLITICAL ISSUE ON WHICH THERE

IS SERIOUS (AND NEEDLESS) RISK OF A DENIAL FROM GOJ WHICH WOULD BE
HARD TO REVERSE OR, EQUALLY BAD, STUBBORN DELAY
FOR EMOTIONAL REA-
SONS FOR AN IDEFINITELY LONG PERIOD. RESOLUTION OF THE TIMOTHY HAY
PROBLEM (ALSO A PNW PRODUCT) AND OTHER INEVITABLE FUTURE DIFFER-
ENCES MUST ALSO BE PROPERLY CONSIDERED. WE FRANKLY QUESTION WHETHER
CHERRY PROBLEM CAN BE RESOLVED IN TIME TO SHIP THIS SEASON (LATE
JUNE AND JULY), BUT CONTINUED STRONG PRESSURE BLEOW POLITICAL
LEVEL SEEMS TO US FAR THE WISER CHOICE.

4. SUGGEST YOU ALSO SHARE AND DISCUSS THIS WITH DAVID HUME OF USDA/
FAS.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FRUIT, FOOD INSPECTION, FOOD & DRUG REGULATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TOKYO03032
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770074-1111
Format: TEL
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770390/aaaadbpg.tel
Line Count: 75
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8fce12bd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3200971
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SWEET CHERRIES.
TAGS: EPAP, JA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8fce12bd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009